



Making the World a Better Place for Southern Projects

Good ideas are plentiful, but how to fund life-improving projects has always been a thorny issue. Judging how effective a project is can also be fraught with debate and contention. Over the past two decades, the number of NGOs in the global South has exploded (<http://lboro.ac.uk/gawc/rb/rb144.html>). The best of them offer the local knowledge and understanding required to make development gains. But unlike NGOs in the North, many lack the powerful fundraising capabilities of the big global NGO brands.

An exciting new initiative based in Germany, but already featuring hundreds of projects from across the South, is using the power of the internet to directly connect projects and donors.

Joana Breidenbach, an anthropologist, author and co-founder of [betterplace.org](http://www.betterplace.org) (www.betterplace.org), says NGOs are emerging in India and other countries of the South to challenge the big Northern global NGOs. "Why wouldn't you want to donate to these Southern NGOs? There are more entrepreneurs and local approaches which are better. "Betterplace gives local institutions a platform to express themselves."

Started in 2007, betterplace is an online marketplace for projects to raise funds. It is free, and it passes on 100 percent of the money raised on the platform to the projects. The foundation that runs betterplace supports its overheads by offering additional services that people can pay for if they wish. It works in a way similar to the online marketplace eBay (www.ebay.com): NGOs post their project, set up an account, blog about their achievements and successes and needs, and receive donations direct to their bank account when they come in.

Breidenbach points out up to a third of any NGO's income is spent on fundraising. In Germany, that represents more than Euro 1.3 billion out of over Euro 4 billion in private donations – money that could have gone directly into the hands of the people needing help.

With betterplace, donors can surf through the projects and pick the one they want. Already, more than 100 large corporations trawl through betterplace seeking projects to fund to meet their corporate social responsibility (CSR) obligations (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporate_social_responsibility).

"I find it very exciting to introduce a good and innovative NGO to a corporate sponsor," Breidenbach said. Breidenbach says betterplace's ultimate goal is "to transfer the donation market online." It hopes to change the rules in donation and charity in the same way blogs and the search engine Google changed the way people publish and search for information. "This provides better transparency, feedback," Breidenbach said. "Now (with betterplace) donors and organizations can cut out the middlemen. A lot of established organizations do not like this too much."

Over the past decade, new concepts like social entrepreneurs and venture philanthropy have emerged to straddle the delicate line between social good and private profit. Betterplace joins this wave of new thinking about how to do development better.

In the 20 months since betterplace went online more than

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1,500 projects have joined. They are now averaging between 20 to 35 new projects joining every week.

Betterplace is a simple open-plan office on the top floor of a Berlin warehouse beside the city's Spree river. The small team (http://www.betterplace.org/about_us/team) work on laptop computers. A blackboard on the wall details in bright colours a running tally of the projects that have joined. Breidenbach gives the example of a mother in Cameroon who is using betterplace to raise the school fees for her children. The mother blogs about the children's progress and has been able to raise the fees for a year and a half. "People are now directly connected to **somebody in need.**" "Right now the functionality (of the website) does not allow people getting in contact publicly and we want to enable this knowledge transfer in 2010. If you want to build a well in Cameroon then you could search for the best technology and to contact other people who are doing similar projects to learn from them."

Success on betterplace is by no means certain. "The experience of the project managers has been as varied as development work is - some have done really well, raising thousands of Euros over the website - others have received no funding at all," Breidenbach said. But betterplace provides tools to give the projects the best chance possible. "Projects can present their work, breaking it down in a transparent way (in order to let supporters know exactly what is needed for their realization), there are sound payment processes in place and project managers can give feedback through their project blog, supporters can download project widgets etc., all supplied free of charge."

Breidenbach has other tips for making betterplace work for a project: post details in English when creating a profile, break down the project into much smaller, low-cost goals (few people are willing to make large donations) – this also has the advantage of receiving payments straight away when they are small. Tell a good story about the project, and try and use actual testimonials from the people affected. Blog and update regularly with photos and videos to keep people engaged. Also avoid copying and pasting text from a previous grant application. "We have the numbers to show that projects which give regular feedback and have a lively web of trust receive more donations than others, which are not very active." "Don't think you can just go on to betterplace and the money starts rolling in," said Breidenbach.

The betterplace platform places all projects seeking funds on the same level, allowing individuals and small NGOs to compete equally with the big, branded global NGOs with their websites and sophisticated fundraising operations. "All the big NGOs have their own websites," continues Breidenbach. "But it is the small initiatives that often don't have a website or know how to use Pay Pal etc. (www.paypal.com). We are very useful for smaller NGOs."

"Another big advantage is that we are a real marketplace: whatever your interests (as a potential donor), you will find a project tackling this issue on the platform."

But what about fraud and people seeing betterplace as a coin-making machine rather than a way to make the world a better place? "We have a feeling for dodgy projects. We check the IP address. We have a number of trust mechanisms in place (and are currently working on enlarging them). Thus projects on betterplace can create trust through their good name ... But we also include something which I would call network-trust: In our web of trust different kinds of stakeholders of an organization or a project have a voice and can publicly state what they think of it. Thus beneficiaries of a project can say if the project has done them good or has been counterproductive, people who have visited the project on the ground can describe what they have seen etc. ... we hope to give a much denser and more varied impression of social work and give donors (a terribly badly informed group of people), the basis for a much more informed **choice.** "If a contributor to a project is dissatisfied with the project's outcome ... she can either directly contact

the project manager via betterplace, or openly voice her concern on the project page for other potential donors to see her views."

For now, betterplace is still only useful to people who have access to the internet and have a bank account (necessary for the money transfers). But in the future betterplace hopes to have mobile phone interactivity and **more features to expand who they can reach**. "We are also re-working our site to make it more intuitive and easier to use for people without computer skills," Breidenbach said. "In the pipeline is also a knowledge backbone, enabling people to access knowhow about development and social innovation issues and exchange views and experiences. This will be very useful for projects in the South as so many people are working on the same issues without knowing about it. They could learn a lot from each other, without the "help" of the north."

With internet broadband in Africa set to take off, according to the report Africa Connect: Undersea Cables to Drive an African Broadband Boom (http://www.pyr.com/downloads.htm?id=5&sc=PR090309_INSAME1.6), even more people will soon be able to make the most of initiatives like betterplace.

Links

- CSR Wire: This is a news service with all the latest news, reports and events and where companies announce their CSR (corporate social responsibility) programmes and how much they are contributing. A great resource for any NGO looking to make a targeted appeal for funds
Website: <http://www.csrwire.com/>
- Alibaba: Alibaba.com is an online marketplace started in China but is now global. It allows businesses from all over the world to trade with each other, make deals and find funding.
Website: <http://www.alibaba.com/>

Bamboo Becomes Transport Option for the South

The sturdy bamboo plant (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bamboo>) is enjoying a revival around the world as a building material. A strong, fast-growing and highly renewable woody plant, it is becoming increasingly popular as people seek out less environmentally wasteful alternatives to steel and other materials. But who would have thought bamboo taxis would turn up on the scene?

A fleet of bamboo taxis is now plying the streets in Tabontabon, a municipality in The Philippines that is home to 10,000 people, most of them rice farmers. Bamboo can sometimes grow more than 1 metre a day. While in Asia, it has long been a traditional construction material, people are now turning to it to make transportation vehicles. In The Philippines, there are 62 species of bamboo, up to 15 of which are suitable for industrial applications. So-called habal-habal motorcycles, the most popular form of transportation in the town, are also the source of many accidents and are uncomfortable on sunny days or when it rains. A covered taxi service is both a safer and a more comfortable alternative.

The town's mayor, Rustico Balderian, took the initiative to build a fleet of bamboo taxis. He set four criteria the new taxis had to meet: they should be low-cost, fuel efficient, safe and environmentally friendly. The bamboo has a higher tensile strength (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tensile_strength) than steel, which also **requires vast quantities of energy to produce**. The taxis are 90 percent made of bamboo and are built by unemployed youth. They are divided into Eco 1 (a model that seats 20 people and runs for eight hours on one gallon of coco-biodiesel from coconuts) (<http://cocobiodiesel.blogspot.com/>), and Eco 2, which seats eight people, has a stereo and sound system, and also runs for eight hours on a gallon of coco-biodiesel. Both are made by the Tabontabon Organic Transport Industry [TOTI] (<http://totieco.multiply.com/>).

Making vehicles out of bamboo is a serious endeavour that also has been under development in Japan. In 2008, Kyoto University's Venture Business Laboratory (VBL) unveiled a unique single-seat electric vehicle equipped with a body made from bamboo. The vehicle was developed under the Kyoto Electric Car Development Project, which is one of the laboratory's major initiatives.

Nicknamed Bamgool, this eco-car's body is made of braided rods of bamboo, one of the local specialty products of the area.

Other bamboo modes of transport in the South include bamboo bicycles in Ghana. A partnership between an American bike designer and a Ghanaian government initiative is taking advantage of this local resource to manufacture bicycles for the local market - and as a source of export income. Not only are the Ghanaian builders harvesting bamboo to make bikes for the domestic market, they are also offering a sophisticated online shopping service for the overseas market. People from around the world can now buy Ghanaian bikes using a website (<http://www.bamboosero.com>). Customers can choose frame builders by their specialty - cargo bike, mountain bike or road bike - and then order it online. The completed bikes are quality checked and then distributed by Calfee Design in California, USA. This approach keeps the middlemen out of the transaction, and means more money gets back to the bike builder.

Meanwhile in Cambodia, the legendary bamboo railway is a people's solution to the poor service offered by the established railway system. In the northwest of the country near the second city of Battambang, an entire railway system has **been built using bamboo**. The bamboo trains, called 'noris' or 'lorries' by the locals, are driven by a electric generator engine. Passengers sit on a bamboo platform placed on two sets of wheels. The bamboo train reaches speeds of over 40 km/h. "We're very careful," 18-year-old Sok Kimhor, a 10-year veteran of the bamboo trains, told the BBC. "We look out for children and animals running across the lines, and we have to slow down when other trains come along." There is just one track, so when two trains meet, one has to be taken off the track to pass.

The regular rail service runs only once a week to the capital, Phnom Penh. This makes the bamboo train the only alternative for many people to get around. While the main railway station is deserted, the bamboo service is a hive of activity. "They're very safe - a motorbike taxi is too fast, and if I use one of those I sometimes get dizzy and fall off," said Sao Nao as she sat on the rails with a small group of people. "On a bamboo train I can sit down and go to sleep. You can't do that on a motorbike."

Design for Development (<http://designfordevelopment.org/>) is also turning to bamboo for a transport solution. The Canadian NGO is working in Kenya on making five emergency medical transportation devices (EMTD), or ambulances, to move local people to health clinics or hospitals. Bamboo is locally available and they hope to set up a workshop and make the ambulances using local labour.

Links

- A slideshow of the bamboo taxis.
Website: <http://totieco.multiply.com/photos/album/2/ECO2>
- UNEP, the UN's Environment Programme, has produced a report on bamboo biodiversity and how it can be preserved.
Website: <http://www.unep-wcmc.org>
- The Asian Development Bank is using its Markets for Poor programme to link bamboo products to marketplaces, helping poor communities.
Website: <http://www.markets4poor.org/>
- A blog describing the use of coco-biodiesel in the Philippines.
Website: <http://cocobiodiesel.blogspot.com/>

Kenyan Mobile Phone Innovations

A couple of enterprising Kenyan engineering students are showing how mobile phones are an inventor's dream. Their two inventions - one a way to re-charge phones while bicycling, the other an aid for catching fish - show the potential for adapting this technology to the needs of the poor.

The rapid spread of mobile phones across the South is giving rise to a flurry of invention and experimentation. While many of the new mobile phone-users do not have much money, they are often driven by poverty to invent solutions - and in so doing prove the phones offer many ways to generate income.

According to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Africa is the world's fastest-growing mobile phone market, and the number of subscribers surpassed 300 million in 2008. The number of mobile phone users in the world passed 4 billion in 2008, and the fastest growth was in the South (ITU). The trend towards increasing development of inexpensive handsets means more phones will be reaching even more poor people in the future.

Kenya has seen blistering growth in mobile phone ownership: from just 200,000 users in 2000, there are now more than 17.5 million people with mobile phones out of a population of 38.5 million. As powerful as mobile phones are, they need electricity to keep working. The struggle to find a steady supply of electricity vexes many in the South, so finding cheap or free ways to recharge the phones represents a huge market opportunity.

While mobile phone recharging has become a business in its own right across the South, it is costly as well as time-consuming. Some people spend hours just getting to recharging stations.

To tackle this chronic problem, Engineering students Pascal Katana and Jeremiah Murimi of the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering at the University of Nairobi, Kenya (http://uonbi.ac.ke/departments/index.php?dept_code=HE&fac_code=32) have invented a device called the "smart charger." It is powered by the dynamo that is standard issue with most bicycles sold in Kenya. Dynamos on the bicycle's back wheel are little electricity generators that use pedal power to illuminate the bike's lights. It takes an hour to charge the mobile phone by peddling the bicycle: around the same time it takes to charge a phone using an electricity plug. A one-time charge for somebody can cost up to US \$2 at a recharging service. But the smart charger sells for 350 Kenyan shillings (US \$4.50) – around the cost of two charges. "We both come from villages and we know the problems," Murimi told the BBC. "The device is so small you can put it in your pocket with your phone while you are on your bike."

The smart charger has been assembled from bits and pieces the duo found: "We took most of (the) items from a junk yard," Katana said. "Using bits from spoilt radios and spoilt televisions."

To test the experimental device, workers at the university campus were recruited to have a go. "I use a bicycle especially when I'm at home in the rural areas, where we travel a lot," said campus security guard David Nyangoro. "It's very expensive nowadays charging a phone. With the new charger I hope it will be more economical, as once you have bought it, things will be easier for you and no more expenses."

Kenya's National Council for Science and Technology (<http://www.ncst.go.ke/>) has now backed the project and the students are exploring ways to mass-produce the smart charger.

Another invention by Katana has adapted a mobile phone to improve fishermen's success, according to Afrigadget (www.afrigadget.com). It amplifies the sounds made by fish as they feed. As the sound is broadcast outwards from the feeding, other fish are attracted to the same place, believing there is more food. A GPRS/GSM (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Packet_Radio_Service) mechanism in the fishing net is triggered when there is enough fish in the net, and an SMS text message is sent to the fisherman letting him know it is time to haul in the net.

It looks like Pascal Katana can re-charge your phone and fill your plate!

Links

- Entrepreneurs can track the growth of the mobile phones market here.
Website: www.wirelessintelligence.com
- SMS Bootcamp: The "SMS Boot Camp" at the University of Nairobi, is a project-based course enabling teams of students to launch and market their own SMS services to the millions of mobile phone users in Kenya. A small amount of seed funding will be available to the best teams interested in turning their project into a commercial venture.
Website: <http://eprom.mit.edu/entrepreneurship.html>
- Mobile Active.org: MobileActive.org is a community of people and organizations using mobile phones for social impact. They are committed to increasing the effectiveness of NGOs around the world who recognize that the over 4 billion mobile phones provide unprecedented opportunities for organizing, communications, and service and information delivery.
Website: www.mobileactive.org
- Textually.org: is the entry point of three weblogs devoted to cell phones and mobile content, focusing on text messaging and cell phone usage around the world, tracking the latest news and social impact of these new technologies.
Website: www.textually.org/
- Ushahidi: is a website that was developed to map reports of violence in Kenya after the post-election fallout at the beginning of 2008. The new Ushahidi Engine is being created to use the lessons learned from Kenya to create a platform that allows anyone around the world to set up their own way to gather reports by mobile phone, email and the web - and map them. It is being built so that it can grow with the changing environment of the web, and to work with other websites and online tools.
Website: <http://blog.ushahidi.com/>
- Google Android: Get inventing! This software enables anyone to start making

applications for mobile phones. And it offers a platform for developers to then sell the applications to others.

Website: www.android.com/

- Afrigadget: is a website dedicated to showcasing African ingenuity. A team of bloggers and readers contribute their pictures, videos and stories from around the continent.

Website: www.afrigadget.com

Info Ladies and Question Boxes: Reaching Out to the Poor

Quick access to accurate and useful information is crucial for development. With the remarkable spread of information around the world via the Internet - one of the greatest achievements of the 21st century - more than 1.5 billion people now use the Web to boost their incomes and opportunities (Internet World Stats).

For those lucky enough to be able to afford regular access to the Internet - as well as a computer and electricity - this new technology is a powerful tool for economic and social advancement. But what about people who are overlooked by technology companies because they are too poor, or too remote, or who are illiterate?

Two initiatives are bringing the benefits of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to the poor and the illiterate in ingenious ways.

Bangladesh's (<http://www.virtualbangladesh.com>) 'Info Lady' scheme is the brainchild of D.Net (Development Research Network) (<http://www.dnet-bangladesh.org/>), a non-profit organization formed in 2001 to use information and communication technology (ICT) for economic development.

Info Ladies typically come equipped with a mobile phone, laptop computer, Internet modem, headphone, webcam, digital camera, and photo printer. They roam around remote villages on bicycles and are a one-stop access point for the rural poor for information, telephone calls and digital services like photography. And Info Ladies can also be Info Men, though this seems to be a problem because women have an easier time being invited into people's homes.

One Info Lady is Luich Akhter Porag. She travels the countryside on her bicycle, equipped with a laptop computer, modem and a mobile phone, and can provide a commercial phone service, photography, livelihood information, knowledge services, international and local voice calls, video and animation and Internet resources.

When farmer Dula Miah had two of his cows bitten by a rabid dog, he was puzzled as to what to do. According to Bangladesh's Daily Star newspaper, Info Lady Luich Akhter Porag came by to help. By using a software programme called

'Jeeon' (<http://www.dnet.org.bd/MultimediaSoftware.php?BookType=8>) - software designed to provide nine essential services to rural people - Porag was able to identify the solution: a vaccine and a trip to the Sundarganj Veterinary Hospital.

Around 24 Info Ladies are now working in various villages in the districts of Gaibandha, Noakhali and Satkhira. The concept is effective: after receiving training in how to use the laptop computer and resources, they are dispatched on bicycles to remote villages to connect the poor and uneducated with crucial information.

D.Net started with something they called 'Mobile Lady' which used just mobile phones, but became frustrated with the limits of the service and decided to combine the phones with a laptop computer, effectively turning the women into mobile

'telecentres' (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telecentre>). Dr Ananya Raihan, executive director of D.Net, told The Daily Star that each Info Lady now earns between Tk 2,500 (US \$36) and Tk 20,000 (US \$290) per month. It has proven to be a good business for rural women, he said. And things are set to grow: "We are planning to increase the number of info ladies to 1,000 by year-end (2009)."

While traditional technology companies have stayed away from rural villages because it isn't worth it for them to go there, the Info Ladies are simultaneously making money in the villages and connecting people to the outside world. Porag says she has provided services to around 6,000 villagers. "Now I earn more than Tk 2,500 (US \$36) to Tk 3,500 (US \$50) per month after becoming an info lady," said Porag who started working as an Info Lady in June 2007. Another initiative that is filling the gap between the needs of the poor and powerful information technologies is the Question Box (www.questionbox.org).

Pioneered in India - home to the largest number of illiterate people in the world: 304.11 million (Human Development Report) - the idea is brilliantly simple. An intercom-like white tin box with a phone inside is placed in a village's public areas. Using the existing phone networks, the user just has to hit a simple button to get an operator at the other end. The operator sits in front of an Internet-enabled computer. The user just asks their question, and the operator turns these questions into search queries. When the computer's search engine gives back answers, the operator selects the best one and then replies in the user's native language and in layman's terms.

The Open Mind Program's Question Box Project opened its first Box in September 2007 and now operates in Pune, Maharashtra. It has also expanded to Uganda, where the Question Box and Grameen Foundation (<http://www.grameenfoundation.org/>) have partnered to bring what they call AppLab Question Box (AQB) to rural Uganda. AQB is a live, local-language telephone hotline service that brings the Internet to the fields and market stalls in Uganda where there are no computers.

The Question Box is based on an idea from Rose Shuman, a business and international development consultant. Shuman had become frustrated that with all the clever people and vast sums of money going into information technology, few were developing low-cost ways to take the power of computers to the people. Following the constant improvement approach favoured in information technology, the Box is now in its third iteration. One of the adjustments made has been the switch to solar power for the boxes because the electricity grid was too unreliable, according to Shuman.

Links

- The Question Box project in photos.
Website: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/73495762@N00> and <http://www.questionbox.org/> and <http://questionblog.posterous.com/>
- Info Dev (www.infodev.org) has a quick guide to low-cost computing devices and initiatives for the developing world.
Website: <http://www.infodev.org/en/Publication.107.html>

Window on the World

Aya, Aya De Yopougou, Aya of Yop City and Aya: The Secrets Come Out: Volume Three

by Marguerite Abouet, Publisher: Drawn and Quarterly.

An animated novel series from the Ivory Coast. Aya tells the story of its 19-year old heroine, the studious and clear-sighted Aya, her easy-going friends Adjoua and Bintou, and their meddling relatives and neighbors.

Nigeria Report from the Financial Times

Website: <http://www.drawnandquarterly.com/>

The Multilateral Trading System: A US-Africa Dialogue on Cotton

Publisher: IDEAS Centre and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. A report of the dialogue between US and four countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali).

Website: <http://www.ideascentre.ch/Conference20Juillet2009.htm>

Wireless Networking in the Developing World, free e-book

Website: <http://wndw.net/download.html>

BBC Radio: Why is the African Continent Poor?

A radio series by Mark Doyle exploring the question: what are Africans doing to themselves to perpetuate poverty? Is it corruption or lack of justice? Or something else? Website:

Website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/8215083.stm>

False Economy: A Surprising Economic History of the World

By Alan Beattie, Publisher: Riverhead Books.

A selective history of the world emphasizing economic endowments and incentives. It thrives on paradoxes, such as why Argentina, one of the world's richest and most promising countries in 1900, is now considered a mediocre developing country; why Indonesia under the corrupt Suharto showed much economic progress after 1970, whereas Tanzania under the honest Julius Nyerere showed none; and why Egypt, once the granary of the Roman Empire, now imports half of its staple food.

Website: www.amazon.com

Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles

By Richard Dowden, Publisher: Public Affairs.

Smart Aid for African Development edited by Richard Joseph and Alexandra Gillies, Publisher: Lynne Rienner. Website: www.amazon.com

Website: www.amazon.com

Smart Aid for African Development

Edited by Richard Joseph and Alexandra Gillies, Publisher: Lynne Rienner.

Website: www.amazon.com

After the Party: Corruption, the ANC and South Africa's Uncertain Future

by Andrew Feinstein, Publisher: Verso

Website: www.amazon.com

The Politics of Aid: African Strategies for Dealing with Donors

Edited by Lindsay Whitfield, Publisher: Oxford University Press.

Website: www.amazon.com

Spirit Level by Richard Wilkinson

Publisher: Allen Lane

Website: <http://www.guardianbookshop.co.uk/BerteShopWeb/viewProduct.do?ISBN=9781846140396>

Capitalism: Beyond the crisis by Amartya Sen

Publisher: The New York Review of Books.

Website: <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/22490>

Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on the Developing World: What the G20 Need to Know by the Institute of Development Studies

Publisher: Allen Lane

Website: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/ids-research-reveals-the-impact-of-the-global-financial-crisis-on-the-developing-world-what-the-g20-need-to-know>

When China Rules the World by Martin Jacques

Publisher: Penguin

Website: www.amazon.com

The End of Certainty: Towards a New Internationalism

by Stephen Chan, Publisher: Zed Books

Website: www.zedbooks.co.uk/the_end_of_certainty

Appeal for Help

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

Website: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VQ3HV6D3>

Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There Is Another Way for Africa

By Dambisa Moyo, Publisher: Allen Lane. In Dead Aid

Website: <http://www.deadaid.org/>

Upcoming Events

2009

September

UN-REDD Programme Policy Board

14 - 28 September 2009

Civil Society Organizations are invited to submit nominations for representatives to serve on the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board. The Policy Board is the governing and decision-making body of the UN-REDD Programme, which is a collaborative partnership between FAO, UNDP and UNEP that supports countries to develop capacity to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and to implement a future REDD mechanism in a post-2012 climate regime.

Voting for CSO nominees will take place from 14 - 28 September 2009. For more information and to access nomination and voting instructions, see attached or click here:

Website: <http://www.un-redd.org/UNREDDProgramme/GlobalProgramme/CSOselfselection/tabid/1244/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Details en français en piece jointe et en ligne ici

Website: <http://www.un-redd.org/UNREDDProgramme/GlobalProgramme/csoselfselectionfr/tabid/1249/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Informacion en español esta incluida y en línea aquí

Website: www.un-redd.org/UNREDDProgramme/GlobalProgramme/csoselfselectionsp/tabid/1250/language/en-US/Default.aspx

Aqua Farming International Exhibition 2009

Vigo, Spain (16-19 September 2009)

This first Aqua Farming International exhibition is held under the umbrella of the World Fishing Exhibition, which will attract a large number of visitors and will be the hub of the international fishing scene.

Website: www.aquafarminginternational.com/index.php?lang=en

EABIS Annual Colloquium 2009

Barcelona, Spain (21-22 September 2009)

This year's Colloquium will focus on the governance of the firm, in the context of new global governance challenges. We also have particular interest in how the role of business in society is likely to change and to what extent governance mechanisms can foster corporate responsibility at the global, company and individual levels.

Website: www.iese.edu/a

2RENEXPO 2009

Augsburg, Germany (24-27 September 2009)

International Trade Fair and Conference for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient Building and Renovation.

Website: www.renexpo.de

2009 Global Youth Enterprise Conference.

Washington, DC. (September 29-30, 2009)

Making Cents International is pleased to announce the 2009 Global Youth Enterprise Conference that will take place in Washington, DC September 29-30, 2009 at the Cafritz Conference Center. This participatory and demand-driven learning event will convene 350 leading stakeholders in the fields of youth enterprise, employment, livelihoods development, microfinance, education, and health. Members of all sectors will share their promising practices, unique approaches, and groundbreaking ideas that help youth develop the necessary skills and opportunities to start their own businesses or seek quality employment. Registration will open January 25th and we invite you to submit a proposal during the Call for Proposals process, which will launch February 16th.

Website: www.youthenterpriseconference.org

October

Renewable Energy World Asia 2009

Bangkok, Thailand (7-9 October 2009)

Renewable Energy World Asia, co-located with POWER-GEN Asia, is a leading conference and exhibition dedicated to the power generation and transmission and distribution industries, attracting 6,000 delegates and attendees from over 50 countries from across South East Asia and around the world.

Website: <http://www.powergenasia.com/index.html>

Global Forum on Local Development

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (12-16 October 2009)

The new wave of decentralization since 1990 is based on the rediscovery of the "local dimension" of development, and the related recognition of local government's potential role and added value in promoting local development and contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Local development is a complex multi-actor process comprising households, communities, local and national governments. While local governments are not the only entities promoting local development, they are increasingly key players at the forefront of delivering local development outcomes. Sponsors: UNCDF

Website: www.dpwg-lgd.org/cms/upload/pdf/NL-3-12-2008.pdf

Nominate (or apply to be) a 2009 Pop!Tech Social Innovation Fellow

Camden, Maine, USA (21-24 October 2009)

You know you want to be a Pop!Tech Fellow. Or you know someone who will want to be. Think you have what it takes to join this select company? Pop!Tech just announced its selection process for up to 15 next-generation world-changing people who are incubating new approaches to some of the world's toughest challenges. Fellows participate in an all-expenses-paid, multi-day intensive development program focused on insights, tools and skills for accelerating and scaling "big bet" innovations in areas like healthcare, energy, development, mobile technology, climate, education, and civic engagement, among others. Fellows receive world-class training in areas like branding, design, measuring impact, media relations, social/Web2.0 media, finance, leadership, digital storytelling and organizational development. These sessions are led by remarkable leaders in these areas

Website: www.poptech.org/nominate

European Development Days 2009

Stockholm, Sweden (22-24 October 2009)

Yearly event hosted jointly by the European Commission and the EU Presidency. The European Development Days bring some 4,000 people and 1500 organisations from the development community together on an equal footing. Delegates from 125 countries are represented, including heads of state and leading world figures, Nobel prize winners among them. The event aims to make development aid more effective, to build a global coalition against poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Through frank and sometimes controversial debates on pressing issues, such as governance, poverty and environmental sustainability, the European Development Days provide unprecedented opportunities for sharing ideas and launching innovative partnerships.

Website: www.eudevdays.eu

OECD 3rd World Forum: Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life

Busan, Korea (27-30 October 2009)

The next World Forum, focused on Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life will attract some 1 500 high level participants with a mixture of politicians and policy makers, opinion leaders, Nobel laureates, statisticians, academics, journalists and representatives of civil society from over 130 countries.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/chqjll>

5th International Microinsurance Conference

Dakar, Senegal (3-5 Nov 2009)

This event is hosted by the Microinsurance Network (formerly the CGAP Working Group on Microinsurance), the Munich Re Foundation, supported by the Conference Interafricaine des Marchés d'Assurances (CIMA), the African Insurance Organisation (AIO), the Fédération des Sociétés d'Assurances de Droit National Africaines (FANAF), the World Bank, the Journal of Risk and Insurance, GTZ and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/mtgzfq>

Second International Conference Multinational Enterprises and Sustainable Development: Strategies for Sustainable Technologies and Innovations

Nancy, France (4-6 November 2009)

The 2009 MESD Conference focuses on the issue of Strategies for Sustainable Technologies and Innovations. This event is designed for management scholars, economists, lawyers, sociologists and those in relevant engineering fields. It encourages participants to consider and share potential answers to questions such as why, when and how innovative and strategic technological choices will be made and deployed. It also compares worldwide corporate policies and best practices.

Website: www.mesd2009.org/

Social and Political Dimensions of the Global Crisis: Implications for Developing Countries

Geneva, Switzerland (12-13 November 2009)

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) will host an international conference in Geneva to better understand the social and political dimensions of the current crisis and subsequent policy and institutional reforms, and their implications for developing countries. In addition, the conference will provide an opportunity to identify key issues for future research in this field.

Website: www.networkideas.org/events/jun2009/UNRISD_Conference_2009.pdf

Impact of the Base-of-the-Pyramid Venture

Delft, Netherlands (16-18 November 2009)

The purpose of this conference is to increase BoP knowledge on value creation and impact assessments by bringing together keynote speakers and delegates from business, academia, NGOs and the public sector. The conference will provide a platform to share conceptual and empirical evidences that address ways to better understand and increase the sustainability impacts of BoP ventures in terms of changes in economic, capacity, environmental and relational well-being.

Website: www.bopimpact.nl

Appeal for Help

Delft, Netherlands (16-18 November 2009)

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

Website: www.zoomerang.com

4th Sustainability Summit: Asia 2009, Winning Strategies for a Sustainable World

New Delhi, India (25-26 November 2009)

The compelling mix of high energy prices, natural resources constrain, environmental degradation, the have and have-nots divide, terrorism and militancy, financial crisis, governance inefficiencies, failure of capitalism, is inducing the need for transformational change to arrest further damage. The Summit is focused on how visionary businesses and institutions are turning crisis into opportunity to change our world into one that is sustainable and all inclusive. The Summit has been designed to provide real-world experience taking participants through the experience of ideating to transformation through action. It provides a diversity of winning experiences in the two days, because it enriches the learning, creating a stronger participation experience.

Website: www.zoomerang.com

2010

Clear Profit 9/10: The Annual Forum for Responsible Investors and Investees: CALL FOR PAPERS

London, UK (25 February 2010)

Clear Profit's 4th annual conference is being designed to provide a fresh perspective on key challenges faced by responsible investors and investees. Attendees have included leading figures in responsible investment and corporate responsibility, NGO finance and campaign professionals, and senior policy makers. For the first time the conference will offer multiple streams, allowing delegates the chance to consider a wide range of topics in breakaway

round table sessions. As a basis for building the programme, we would like to invite potential speakers to make a session proposal. Just two or three paragraphs will do. If you would like to make such a proposal, register your interest in attending, or find out more about the benefits of sponsoring, please email event@clear-profit.com

Website: <http://www.clear-profit.com/events.html>

Happy Planet Index

The Happy Planet Index reveals the ecological efficiency with which human well-being is delivered. The index combines environmental impact with human well-being to measure the environmental efficiency with which, country by country, people live long and happy lives. Learn about the ideas behind the HPI, how it is calculated, why we need it and what it can teach us.

Website: www.happyplanetindex.org/

African Economic Outlook

A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.

Website: www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en

Appeal for Help

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

Website: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VQ3HV6D3>

MobileTech4SocialChange

They have also set up a Wiki with the latest notices about upcoming events around the world.

Website: <http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/>

Training Opportunities

Ongoing

Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs

Website: www.grameen-info.org

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Courses

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the USA's best known private universities, has made all 1,800 courses in its curriculum (environmental sciences, computer studies, physics...) available free on-line, using an open source system called OpenCourseWare (OCW). Each month, some 1.5 million surfers, most of them based outside the USA, follow the lessons and lectures in PDF, audio and video formats, some are also translated into French and Portuguese. MIT is working with other universities to help them set up their own OCW.

Website: ocw.mit.edu

Sustainable Tourism Criteria

The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

Website: www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org

Two Workshops Offered for Development Practitioners

The community-managed microfinance course deals with providing sustainable financial services for the very poor. Although MFIs are well-established, they have mostly failed to penetrate remote rural areas because the costs are too high and the demand for credit too small. Meanwhile, over the last 15 years, massive, sustainable programmes have emerged that reach this target group at very low cost, based on autonomous, small-scale savings and loan associations. Co-sponsored by the SNHU Community Economic Development Masters Program at the Open University of Tanzania and VSL Associates.

Website: <http://rs6.net>

Careers

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing

career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and r  sum   preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.
Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: bizzlounge.com

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: businessfightspovetry.ning.com

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest collectively our world

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: topics.developmentgateway.org

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporafricanforum.org

Eldis Communities

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

Website: community.eldis.org

Enterprise Development Exchange

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

Website: edexchange.seepnetwork.org

Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world's five continents.

Website: <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

Global Development Matters

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction. There is an Election '08 blog.

Website: www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org

GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

Website: [Africa](#) | [Middle East and North Africa](#) | [Asia](#)

LED knowledge

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

Website: www.ledknowledge.org

Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

Website: www.worldbank.org/leg/nonie/

TakingITGlobal.org

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

Website: profiles.takingitglobal.org

XING Group Microfinance Industry

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

Website: www.xing.com/

AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

Website: www.afdevinfo.com

Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org

Fellowship Opportunities

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and

businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org/

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Website: pioneersofprosperity.org

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: www.trustafrica.org

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.

Email: namstct@vsnl.com

Website: www.scidev.net

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

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Website: www.devex.org

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the world's first global youth development competition.

Website: [More Information](#)

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

Website: www.openarchitecturenetwork.org

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: www.acci.org.za

Institute of Social Studies in The Hague

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources in international development.

Website: <http://focuss.info/>

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in>

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund

They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs).

Website: www.echoinggreen.org

Funding

UNESCO: International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation

The International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008. The centre functions under the auspices of UNESCO. It facilitates the integration of a developmental approach into national

science and technology and innovation policies, and provides policy advice. In parallel to organizing capacity-building and the exchange of experience and best practices, the centre conducts research and tackles specific problems in science, technology and innovation policy-making in developing countries.

Website: www.unesco.org

Funding - Google.org

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

Website: www.google.org

Challenge InnoCentive

A challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com>

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: <http://www.socialedge.org>

Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)



Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta [cosmas.gitta@undp.org] Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation